

FAQ on the Visa Waiver Program

Q: I have a red Austrian passport issued a few years ago. Is it still good for visa-free travel?

A: Yes, red Austrian passports issued before October 26, 2005 remain good for visa-free travel to the United States, even after October 26.

Q: Will Austria continue to participate in the Visa Waiver Program?

A: Yes, Austria will continue as member of the Visa Waiver Program. Please click [here](#) for more information on the Visa Waiver Program.

Q: Do all EU members qualify for the Visa Waiver Program?

A: No, each country is considered individually. Please click [here](#) for a list of countries whose citizens qualify.

Q: What is the difference between a machine readable passport, a biometric passport and an e-passport?

A: All red Austrian passports have a machine-readable area at the bottom. A biometric passport also has a digital photo instead of one that is glued on. An e-passport also has a micro-chip that can be read by special equipment to confirm the data printed on the passport.

Q: What is wrong with the Austrian passports issued after October 26, 2005?

A: There is nothing different about the passports issued after October 26, 2005. However, in 2003 the U.S. determined that to be used for visa free travel after October 26, 2005, all passports had to include a biometric indicator, that is, a digital photo. This is consistent with EU standards and ICAO guidelines.

Q: My passport will expire a few days after I plan to return to Austria. Is that okay?

A: Your Austrian passport must only be valid at the time you enter the United States. The U.S. government does not require any additional period of validity, but you should contact the Austrian government for information on obtaining a new passport in the United States.

Q: What is the cost of a visa?

A: The visa application fee is 85 euro, and application requires a trip to the Consular Section. We note an Austrian passport costs considerably less.